第２講　国公立大英語長文演習②

次の英文を読んで，設問に答えなさい。

Comedies are popular on television. Examples include such programs as “Friends” and “The Simpsons.” One reason that these television comedies are funny is because they use an effective mix of jokes. One kind of joke in these television comedies is called a “running gag.” A running gag is a funny situation or line of dialog that happens repeatedly in a comedy. This repetition can take place within a single episode, from one episode to the next, or both.

Running gags (1) <u>actually</u> started to be used prior to the widespread adoption of television, in radio comedies during the “golden age” of radio. This era lasted from around the 1930s until the 1950s. One of the most popular of these shows was called “Fibber McGee and Molly.” This radio comedy was about a husband and a wife and was especially famous for one running gag. In this running gag, when the husband, Fibber McGee, opened his closet to find something, many things would fall out every time.

The audience could know that these things were about to fall out because Fibber would announce in a loud voice that he was about to open his closet. Obviously, given that this was a radio comedy, the audience could only hear what was happening. When Fibber opened his closet, a variety of loud sounds could be heard as if many different types of objects were falling to the floor. The fact that people could only hear what was happening was (2) <u>an advantage</u> rather than a limitation. The power of the imagination increased the effectiveness of this particular gag.

NOTE

Although television comedies became more popular than those on the radio during the 1950s, they continued to use many of the same techniques as their radio predecessors. One of these was the running gag. Some good examples can be found in a 1970s television comedy called “Happy Days,” a very popular show about a group of friends in high school. This television comedy used many running gags with most of them being about one of the main characters, a young man by the name of Arthur Fonzerelli. He was a very cool individual who wore a leather coat and rode a powerful motorcycle. The running gags used in this television comedy were often connected to his reputation for being cool. For example, when he passed a mirror, he would take his comb out of his pocket to touch up his hair. But when he looked at himself in the mirror, he put his comb back quickly every time because he thought he was perfect. (3) It was as if no further improvement to his appearance could be made; he was so cool that not even a single hair was ever out of place. Also, looking in the mirror, he would put his thumbs in the pockets of his pants like a model posing for the cover of a magazine. This body language made it funnier because he looked very confident and proud of himself. In another running gag, he could fix broken toasters or cars just by tapping on them briefly or simply by snapping his fingers. This also demonstrated his cool personality and was funnier because of (4) its impossibility. It was as if a person could be so cool that they could even influence machines.

NOTE

(5) Running gags seem to work for different reasons. First, they are very humorous. They also work because people like familiar things. People can feel satisfied when something happens predictably, thus meeting their expectations. The running gags presented here occurred repeatedly in a number of episodes of these programs. Of course, if the same running gags are used too much, they run the risk of becoming boring. For this reason people who write television comedies have to be careful not to rely upon them too extensively.

［2015 年度 北海道大学］

NOTE

問 1　下線部（1）の語が使われている理由を，(A)～(D）の中から選び，記号で答えなさい。

(A) Television was very popular from the 1930s to the 1950s.

(B) The “golden age” of radio lasted 20 years rather than continuing to the present.

(C) Readers may be surprised to learn that running gags started in radio comedies.

(D) Both the Fibber McGee and the Happy Days running gags are surprisingly similar.

問 2　下線部（2）は，何が，どういう理由で，an advantage なのかを日本語で説明しなさい。

問 3　下線部（3）を日本語に訳しなさい。

問 4　下線部（4）の語句は何があり得ないのか，日本語で説明しなさい。

問 5　下線部（5）の文において，その「理由」として最も適切なものを，（A）～（D）から選び，記号で答えなさい。

（A）They are cool and frightening at the same time.

（B）They combine our love of funny events with the comfort of predictability.

（C）They are packed with the kind of sounds one hears when many things fall to the floor.

（D）They avoid the risk of becoming boring by changing the writers.

問 6　本文の内容と一致するものを，（A）～（G）から 3 つ選び，記号で答えなさい。

（A）Television comedy writers borrowed the idea of running gags from radio comedies.

（B）The increasing popularity of radio has negatively impacted the popularity of television.

（C）A running gag can be defined as a joke or a humorous situation that is repeated.

（D）The television show called “Happy Days” was responsible for the decline of radio comedies.

（E）The very thing that makes running gags effective - repetition - can also make them lose their effectiveness.

（F）Running gags are no longer an important part of comedies.

（G）Arthur Fonzerelli in the television comedy “Happy Days” was a fashion model.

NOTE

第２講　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　解答

＜解答＞

問１　C

問２　聴衆が，ラジオのコメディーの中で起こっていることを聞くことしかできないことで，想像力をかき立て，ギャグの効果を高めるから。

問３　全訳の下線部を参照。

問４　壊れたトースターや車を，手で軽くたたいたり，指をパチンと鳴らしたりするだけで直してしまうこと。

問５　B　　　　　問６　A, C, E

＜全訳＞

　コメディーはテレビで人気がある。例えば，「フレンズ」や「シンプソンズ」のような番組がある。こういったテレビのコメディーが人気な理由の一つは，効果的にジョークを混ぜて使うからだ。こうしたテレビのコメディーで見られるジョークの類いは，「定番ギャグ」と呼ばれている。定番ギャグは，コメディーの中で繰り返し起こるおかしな状況や，セリフのくだりである。この繰り返しが，一回の放映の中で起きたり，その次の放映の中でも起きたり，両方で起こるときもある。

　定番ギャグは，実際には，テレビが広く普及する前，ラジオの「全盛期」にラジオコメディーの中で使われ始めた。この時代は，およそ 1930 年代から 1950 年代まで続いた。この番組で最も人気があったものの一つは，「フィバー・マギーとモリー」と呼ばれるものだった。このラジオのコメディーは，ある夫婦に関するもので，特に定番ギャグで有名だった。この定番ギャグでは，夫であるフィバー・マギーが何かを見つけるのにクローゼットを開けると，多くのものが毎回落っこちてくるのである。

　聴衆は，フィバーが大きな声でこれからクローゼットを開けると宣言するので，これらのものが落っこちてくると知ることができた。言うまでもなく，これがラジオのコメディーだと考慮すると，聴衆は起きていることが，聞こえてくるだけである。フィバーがクローゼットを開けると，まるで多くの異なる種類のものが床に落ちてくるかのように，様々な大きな音が聞こえてくる。起きていることが聞こえてくるだけという事実は，欠点というよりは，むしろ利点であった。想像力が持つ力によって，この特有なギャグの効果が高まっていたのだ。

　テレビのコメディーは 1950 年代の間，ラジオのコメディーよりも人気があったが，

ラジオで以前使われていたのと同じ技術を使い続けていた。この一つが定番ギャグだった。1970 年代のテレビのコメディー「ハッピーデイズ」という高校の友人グループに関する大人気の番組で，いくつかの良い例を見ることができる。このテレビのコメディーは，そのほとんどが主人公の一人であるアーサー・フォンザレリという名の若者に関するもので，多くの定番ギャグを使った。彼は，レザーコートを着て大きなバイクを乗り回すとても格好良い人間だった。このテレビのコメディーで使われる定番ギャグが，彼の格好良いという評判とよく結び付けられた。例えば，彼が鏡の前を通り過ぎると，ポケットからクシを取り出し，髪をかき上げ直すのだ。しかし彼は鏡で自分を見ると，自分は完璧だと思うので，毎回すぐにクシをポケットに戻すのだ。それは，まるで彼の外見にはもう改善は不要であるかのようだ。彼はとても格好良いので，一本の髪の毛でさえ不適当だ。また，鏡を見ると，彼は雑誌の表紙のモデルのようなポーズで，ズボンのポケットに親指を入れるのだ。このボディランゲージによって，さらにおかしくなるのは，彼が自信満々で誇らしげに見えるからだ。もう一つの定番ギャグでは，彼はポンと軽く手で叩いたり，指をパチンと鳴らしたりするだけで，壊れたトースターや車を修理できるのだ。これも，彼の格好良い性格を示すもので，ありえないからこそより面白かったのだ。それはまるで，あまりに格好良いので機械にさえ影響を与えられるかのような人であった。

定番ギャグは，様々な理由でうまくいくように思える。まず初めに，とてもユーモアに富んでいるのだ。そのギャグがまたうまくいくのは，人が慣れ親しんだものが好きだからだ。人が満足感を感じることができるのは，何かが予測通りに起きて，その期待を満たしてくれる時なのだ。ここで紹介した定番ギャグは，この番組のたくさんの放映で繰り返し起きた。もちろん，もし同じ定番ギャグがあまりに使われると，退屈になるリスクがある。この理由のために，テレビのコメディーを書く人は，そのギャグに頼りすぎないように注意しなければならない。

第２講 重要語彙リスト ＊一つ一つ何度も繰り返して，覚えてください

1	include	含んでいる
2	effective	効果的な
3	dialog	セリフ
4	repeatedly	繰り返して
5	episode	1回分の話
6	prior to	～より以前に
7	widespread	広範囲の
8	adoption	採用
9	era	時代
10	last	続く
11	be about to do	～しそうだ
12	announce	宣言する
13	given that ～	～と考慮すると
14	as if	まるで～かのように
15	object	物体
16	advantage	利点
17	limitation	制限，欠点
18	particular	特別な，特有の
19	predecessor	前任者
20	main character	主人公
21	individual	人
22	motorcycle	オートバイ
23	be connected to	～とつながっている
24	comb	クシ
25	touch up	修正する
26	thumb	親指
27	confident	自信のある
28	fix	修理する
29	tap on	叩く
30	briefly	簡単に
31	snap	パチンと鳴らす
32	demonstrate	示す
33	personality	性格
34	humorous	ユーモアに満ちた
35	predictably	予言できるほど
36	meet one’s expectations	～の期待を満たす
37	run a risk	リスクをおかす
38	boring	退屈な
39	rely upon	頼る
40	extensively	広範囲に

第２講　音読用白文　①　②　③　④　⑤　⑥　⑦　⑧　⑨　⑩

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